

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Applying Lakoff's Frames to Changes in Political Media and Congressional Policymaking

STUDENT: Kristopher M.T. Kritzer

DEGREE: Master of Arts

COLLEGE: Sciences and Humanities

DATE: May, 2009

PAGES: 64

This thesis is a case study applying George Lakoff's theories regarding frames to a specific series of legislation dealing with immigration. First, literature is examined regarding changes in Congress and media and the relationship between the two. George Lakoff's theories on framing are discussed, paying special attention to the familial models and biconceptualism. The case study regards immigration reform legislation that was attempted to pass through Congress in 2007, specifically the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007 and the STRIVE Act. The application of Lakoff's theories to this case study aids in further understanding the link between politics and communication and the importance of persuasion in a political setting.